

From: Kevin Ryan
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/22/02 10:15am
Subject: "Americans for Technology Leadership"

As I'm sure you're aware, Microsoft has started an "association" (the title is in the subject line)--actually a captive lobby of MS and whoever it could pressure into lending names, as far as I can tell--to encourage (pro-Microsoft) comment on their case/settlement. At their web site (<http://www.techleadership.org/5010/>), they have a mechanism for posting comments which will supposedly be posted to the address I'm sending this to. Yesterday (1/21/02) I posted some comments disparaging Microsoft's business practices, and questioning its commitment to software innovation. I thought that you might be interested in checking to see if you receive them; I know I am curious, since I would not rule out the possibility of filtering in the forwarding process. The return address associated with my comments will be the same as the one at the bottom of this note.

The thrust of my comments was that Microsoft got off easy, and that it perniciously exploits its market dominance to stifle potential software competitors and to coerce manufacturers into pre-installing its software, and that the overall effect is to guarantee only MS the opportunity to innovate, as well as to guarantee that they only need to innovate just enough to sell updated versions of their products. If their practices aren't illegal, they should be, but I know that's outside of DoJ's area of responsibility.

Please feel free to forward this to any other government officials seeking public comment on Microsoft. Be aware that these are my own views, not necessarily those of my company. But also be aware that I am a network administrator, with several years' experience with Microsoft software, and a good deal of knowledge of the software industry.

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